

# The Battalion

Vol. 70 No. 63  
10 Pages

Tuesday, January 25, 1977  
College Station, Texas

News Dept. 845-2611  
Business Dept. 845-2611

## Top of the News Campus

**CHARLES S. MOTT** Foundation Fellowships for graduate studies in community education are now being offered at the Center for Community Education. The 12-month fellowships offer \$400 to \$600 a month with awards contingent on a candidate's degree status, professional experience and demonstrated community education leadership. Information may be obtained from the College of Education. Letters of interest are due Feb. 15.

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY** students attending school on the GI Bill must present fee slips to campus Veterans Administration officials by Jan. 31 in order to continue receiving educational benefits. Slips should be presented to the VA representatives at Ramp B, Hart Hall to insure continued payment in the spring semester.

**TOM CHERRY**, former vice president of Texas A&M University, was named assistant to North Texas State President C. C. Nolen last week. Cherry was vice-president of business affairs at A&M from 1962 to 1976.

**THE ANNUAL THREE-WEEK EXECUTIVE** Development Course sponsored by the College of Business Administration began yesterday in Rudder Tower. About 50-60 executives are attending intensive training for persons expected to receive major promotions. A 9 a.m. panel on energy from the viewpoints of utility companies, industry and banking will keynote the event.

## Texas

**CONGRESSMAN OLIN E. TEAGUE** has been re-elected to a third term as chairman of the Science and Technology Committee in the House of Representatives. Teague, who is currently hospitalized for amputation of his left foot, said Wednesday that the committee would begin hearings on the nation's space program and energy needs immediately after receiving President Jimmy Carter's recommendations.

**LITTLE OPPOSITION** has been voiced so far to a proposal to build a \$1 billion gas-cooled nuclear power generator in the Panhandle. Dr. Vaughn Nelson, associate professor and head of the physics department at West Texas State University in Canyon said. The gas-generator — the first of its kind in the nation — will be the topic of a seminar next month for legislators and state officials.

**BROWN & ROOT, INC.**, the world's largest engineering construction firm, no longer has a president. A medical examiner ruled yesterday the chief executive officer committed suicide Sunday. Company officials say they know of no motive for Foster Parker's suicide. A company spokesman said Monday there was no apparent connection between Parker's suicide and a grand jury investigation into Gulf Coast offshore construction pricing practices of Brown & Root.

**TEACHING LOADS** for college professors will be studied by a seven-man subcommittee in Austin. Rep. Bill Presnal, D-Bryan, named Rep. Walt Parker, D-Denton, to head the appropriations subcommittee. University of Texas officials say Legislative Budget Board proposals for enforcing teaching load requirements would cost the school millions. Many school officials complain they would be hurt by Gov. Dolph Briscoe's proposal to require professors to teach an average of 12 classroom hours a week.

## National

**TV CRIME PROGRAMS** such as "Kojak" and "Baretta" are teaching prisoners how to be better criminals, according to an inmate serving a life term at the Marquette Prison in Michigan. He said that the prisoners take notes as they watch and keep them for future reference. Nine out of ten prisoners interviewed said they had learned new tricks from the shows and were improving their criminal expertise by watching the crime programs.

**HEALTH AUTHORITIES** in Los Angeles declared an outbreak of potentially fatal measles an epidemic yesterday. One death has been blamed on measles, authorities said, and the number of cases is running seven times as high as in the years before 1976.

## weather

Sunny and cool today with a high in upper 50s. Fair and cold tonight with a low in mid-30s. Increasing cloudiness tomorrow with a high in low 60s. Precipitation probability zero.

# First black joins A&M regents

By LEE ROY LESCHPER Jr.

Texas A&M's Board of Regents reelected its board officers and welcomed two new regents to their first meeting this morning.

Board Chairman Clyde H. Wells, vice-chairman Richard Goodson and Secretary Robert Cherry were unanimously re-elected by the board. Wells and Goodson are members of the board and Cherry is a special assistant to University President Jack K. Williams.

Newly-appointed regents John Blocker and Dr. John B. Coleman, the first black to serve on A&M's board, were welcomed to the board with re-appointed regent H. C. Bell.

Local radio and television representatives paid particular attention to Coleman, whose appointment has been questioned by State Sen. William T. "Bill" Moore,

D-Bryan. Moore had earlier questioned Governor Dolph Briscoe's appointing regents from the same city. Coleman and Blocker are both from Houston.

A&M President Williams, looking fit, trim and recovered from his bout last summer with heart trouble, listened quietly to discussion during the meeting. It was his first since his first heart attack last June. Williams told several students proudly before the meeting that he has lost 30 pounds since June.

Chairman Wells reported that the regents were considering possible changes within the A&M System's administrative organization, but he said no decision on specific changes would be made until a later meeting.

The board approved a program establishing a center for research and education into America's free enterprise system. The

center will provide pre-college, college, continuing education and pure research programs on the free enterprise system.

Members of the board emphasized that the center will be funded through sources

other than state funds. In proposing the center Regent Gene Reynolds reported that the Former Students' Assn., the A&M Development Foundation and the A&M Research Foundation have already agreed to give the center \$300,000.

The regents approved a number of construction projects affecting A&M. These include the annual renovation program to repair A&M dorms during the summer and preliminary work for renovations on A&M's Agronomy Building, a clinical sciences building at the A&M vet school, and conversion of Leggett Hall from dorm to office space.

Regent H. C. Bell said he had been told before the meeting that student residents of Leggett Hall have petitioned the board to delay their decision on renovating Leggett. Bell said that only a preliminary study on the feasibility of converting the dorm would be approved now and any construction work on the building would not begin for at least a year.

Bids for improvements in Duncan Dining Hall and replacement of A&M's Horse Barn and Arena were also approved.

The board also granted official approval to two fees that graduate students have been paying, without board sanction,

since 1970. Those are \$27.50 and \$15 fees graduate students are charged for microfilming dissertations and binding dissertations, respectively. University System Executive Officer Clyde Freeman told the board a recent university audit



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revealed the fees had never been approved by the board.

Dr. Alvin Thomas, president of Prairie View A&M College, made a plea to the board for help in preventing budget cuts the state legislature is now considering for all of Texas' state universities.

Thomas told the board that legislative cuts to smaller colleges, like Prairie View can have disastrous results on the programs they offer. He said the legislature is considering cuts for all schools on the basis of limited job opportunities available to graduates of larger universities, when Prairie View's predominantly black graduates are in great demand.

## Law requires facts on school aid, costs

By SUSAN RIFF

A new federal law has been enacted to provide students with important legal rights and valuable information, according to Claudia Kerbel, consumer information specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

The Educational Amendments Act of 1976 requires colleges, trade schools, training schools and junior colleges to provide accurate information about their financial assistance programs and costs, Kerbel said.

"This should give students more information so they can choose a school adequate to their needs instead of their emotions," she added.

"Part of the reason for passing the amendment was that students were not paying their loans back," Kerbel said. "The school must state that the loans are not scholarships and must be paid back."

"Texas A&M University pretty well complies with the law. It's a unique school," Kerbel added.

She explained that information on the costs of tuition and fees, books and

supplies, room and board estimates and any additional fees such as laboratory fees must be provided.

Other information that must be included is the refund policy of the school for fees paid and the academic programs offered, Kerbel said.

"The school can give descriptions that indicate the school's quality, such as the number of faculty and students and the number of degrees received by students, as long as they are factual," Kerbel added.

A&M University releases all required information and states the University's policies on refunds and other matters in the catalog explicitly, according to Student Legal Advisor Kenneth M. Robison.

"The main problem is that students don't read it," Robison said.

"If a school refuses to give the student this information, he can report it to the Department of Education," Robison said.

"The complaint will be investigated, which usually takes years, but eventually the school may be denied financial aid if they have broken the rules in the amendment."



BLOCKER

## Housing plans announced

# Freshmen to get priority

By KIM TYSON

Next fall's crop of Texas A&M University freshmen will be given top priority when it comes to assigning about 6,000 students to dormitory rooms.

"Approximately 70 per cent of projected (dormitory) vacancies will be assigned to

incoming freshmen," said Glenn Jennings, assistant director of student affairs, who estimates a possible 1,750 vacancies for next fall. He added that the remaining 30 per cent will come from the waiting list.

"We were getting to a point where no freshman would be allowed to live on campus," explained Jennings. He said this was due to the large number of students wanting to get on campus from off campus.

The new policy comes at a time when 6,000 students are on the University waiting list.

For students living off campus, it may be easier to find an apartment next fall and possibly cheaper, said Tommye Morehead, coordinator of Hassle-Free, an off-campus information organization.

"Supposedly, there's a shortage of housing this year, but next year it will not be that way," Morehead said.

Construction of the Lexington Apartments, Potomac Place, Sundance Apartments and several duplexes will aid the housing shortage. The Oaks, Willowick, Treehouse and Bee Creek apartments are also planning to complete new additions.

"I hope it will bring a more competitive market," Morehead said. She added that with the addition of surplus housing there will be a possibility of a reduction in rates.

Charles E. McCandless, University director of academic planning and services, predicted an end to the off-campus housing shortage with the completion of 1,000

apartment units that would house an estimated 2,500 Aggies next fall. McCandless added that although A&M predicts an enrollment of 29,687 for next fall, up from the 28,036 of last September, the increased housing will help cover the increase in enrollment.

"We think there may be 1,000 more units and at 2.5 people per unit that would more than take care of the increase," he added.

Another on-campus housing policy is also in effect. Students can now apply 15 months in advance for housing for the semester they will be entering A&M. This program, effective Oct. 20, 1976, separates applying for housing from applying to the University, said Jennings.

"There were so many variables involved in admission procedures," Jennings said. Transcripts, SAT scores, the mail service and the early decision program let some apply earlier giving them an advantage for getting on-campus housing, he explained.

People who plan to attend A&M can apply now for spring, 1978 on-campus housing and may apply beginning June 1 for fall, 1978. Present A&M students can apply at any time; however, the housing office has stopped accepting applications for fall, 1977 because of the long waiting list.

Jennings added that the assignment of those in the Corps is not affected by these policies since these students are directly assigned to one of their 10 dorms.

## Proposal to cut research funds

By JOHN W. TYNES

Organized research at Texas A&M University could suffer a financial setback if a proposal submitted to the Texas legislature by the House Appropriations Committee is passed.

An appropriations bill introduced by House Appropriations Committee Chairman Bill Presnal, D-Bryan, calls for a \$6 million cut in organized research at A&M.

"I don't think at this point that it's anything to get too excited about," said Pieter Groot, special assistant to the vice president for academic affairs.

He said the bill refers to organized research, which presently represents \$1.2 million in a \$47 million total research budget.

Cliff Lancaster, assistant vice president for budgets, said only research directly funded by the state would be affected.

Groot said the money received from the state does not actually support new research. It is used, he said, to begin work that may later qualify for federal funding.

"What you have seen so far are only recommendations," he said, adding that the bill probably will undergo many changes before it is passed.

"We have no idea what the outcome will be," he said.

Groot said he was unsure what programs would be affected if the bill were to pass as it stands.

"There's no way to predict what would be hurt the most," he said. "The new programs might start falling off."

Rep. Bill Presnal, who introduced the bill, said the purpose of the action on research is to determine the actual value of organized research.

"I'm quite impressed by the way I find Texas A&M spending its funds on or-

ganized research," he said. "I'm not so impressed with the way I find those funds used by other institutions."

Presnal said the bill would give college administrators the opportunity to attend the hearings and defend the merits of the organized research program.

"We're not saying that all organized research everywhere is over-funded," he said. "The point is, it needs to be cleared up."

He said he is trying to seek more information on organized research so he can see what is justified in the way of state funding.

Presnal established a special subcommittee to look at four areas: organized research, teaching loads, off-campus classes and small classes. The subcommittee will suggest action dealing with each of the areas, he said.

## Soft blue skies: a bit of good weather

Yesterday's thin clouds on the blue winter sky formed a background for the Academic Building on the A&M campus.

The scene presented quite a contrast between the building, the symbol of academic endeavor at A&M, and the beautiful weather, which made it very difficult to study.



Battalion photo by Mike Willy